

**Saskatchewan exports
around the world**

page 8

UPCOMING SOILS AND CROPS WORKSHOPS PAGE 5

PORK INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM PAGE 10

ARE YOU THINKING AG? PAGE 14

Minister's Message



Trade, and in particular the ability to export, has always been important to the growth of Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is known around the world as a reliable supplier of safe, quality food.

As the nation's top agri-food exporter, Saskatchewan reached \$11.2 billion in revenue for the first time in 2012, and we are on pace to set a new record again, and we are on pace to set a new record again in 2013.

Saskatchewan's export markets are highly diversified and we continue to work with industry to capitalize on new opportunities in current and emerging world markets.

Our government's Plan for Growth outlines targets for agriculture that we intend to meet by 2020. Those targets include increasing agricultural production by 10 million tonnes and exports from \$10 billion in 2011 to \$15 billion by 2020.

We set an ambitious goal for crop production and producers proved they were up to the challenge. In 2013 we had a record harvest of 38.4 million tonnes and surpassed the growth plan target of 36.6 million tonnes.

A harvest of this size is not possible without the hard work of everyone involved in the agriculture industry. There are many variables that go into producing a successful crop with weather being one of the most important. I commend our farmers for having the faith to invest in the inputs required to have a bumper crop when conditions last spring were less than favourable.

In the future, it will be the innovation of our producers and Saskatchewan's research capacity that will help ensure we continue to be a world leader in agriculture production.

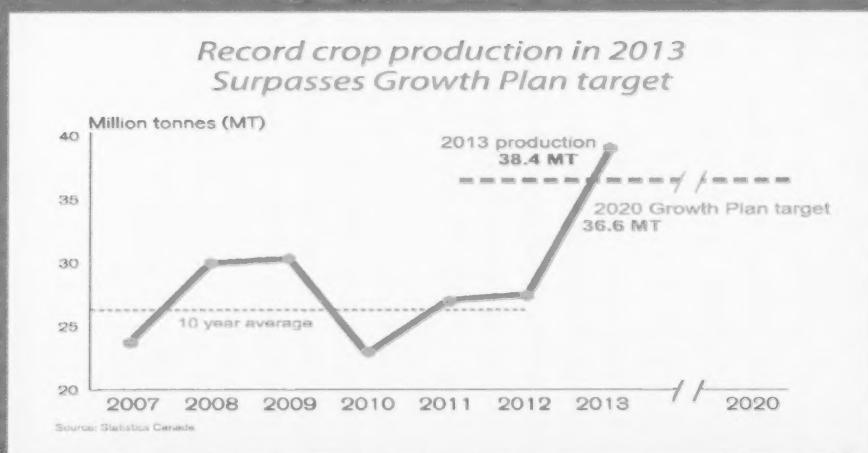
In early February, Saskatchewan is hosting the 2014 Agriculture Trade Summit. The event will bring together the leading industry players and government officials from Saskatchewan's largest markets.

With agriculture responsible for more than one-third of Saskatchewan's export earnings, this summit showcases the important role that agriculture plays in the economic growth of Saskatchewan.

In addition to the summit, we will be working with industry to explore and source new trade opportunities through a series of trade missions abroad.

By helping to open markets and opportunities for the province's farmers, ranchers and agri-food exporters, we hope to sustain the economic growth Saskatchewan is currently experiencing.

Lyle Stewart



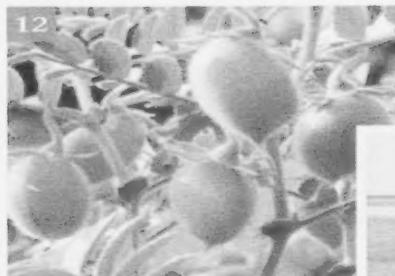
STORY SNAPSHOTS



Pea input trial



Screening for Johne's disease



Improving Chickpea yields in SK



Crop Opportunities

TABLE OF CONTENTS



CROPS

4



MARKETS AND TRADE

8



LIVESTOCK

10



RESEARCH

12



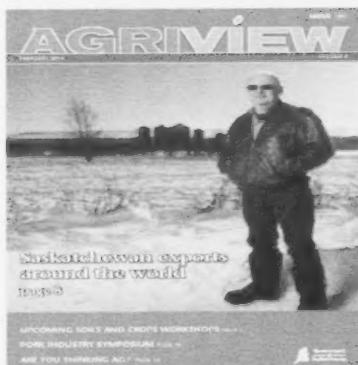
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

14



EVENTS CALENDAR

16



Cover: Harold Fast, founder of pig genetics company Fast Genetics, stands near some of the company's facilities near Spiritwood, Sask. Today, Fast Genetics is a subsidiary of HyLife and is involved in exporting pig genetics around the world. For more on pork industry's potential see the story on page 8.



AGRIVIEW is published by the Communications Branch of Saskatchewan Agriculture for Saskatchewan farmers, ranchers and farm and food organizations. For more information, call 306-787-5160 or email agriview@gov.sk.ca. To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs-services.



The 2014 Saskatchewan grasshopper forecast



by Scott Hartley, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Insect and
Vertebrate Pest Management
Crops and Irrigation Branch

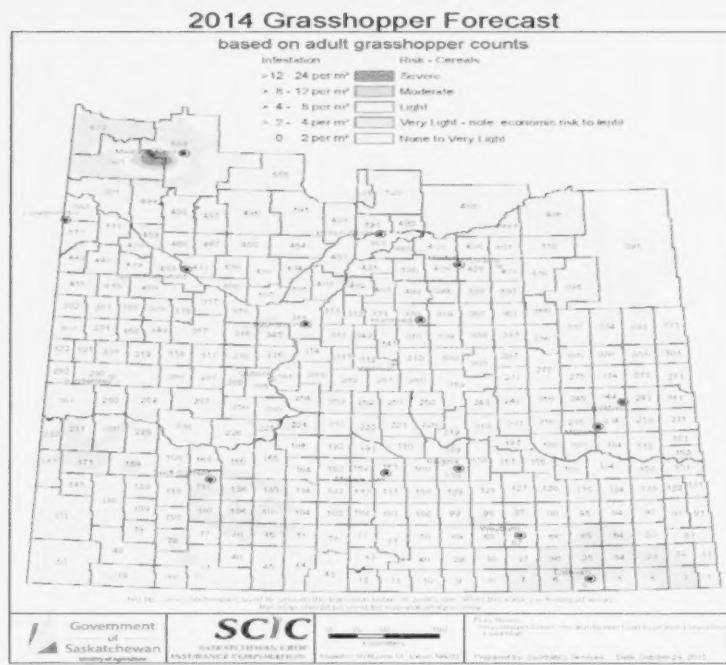
Based on adult grasshoppers observed during the annual grasshopper survey, the risk of grasshopper infestations in 2014 appears low for most of Saskatchewan. There were, however, pockets of higher populations identified in southwestern Saskatchewan and some severe levels noted around Meadow Lake and Goodsoil, in the northwest. The 2014 forecast map is based on adult grasshopper populations observed by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation personnel in August and September of 2013 at more than 1,100 sites.

The intention of the survey is to estimate the number of mature grasshoppers capable of reproduction and egg-laying prior to winter. The extended winter and cool spring climatic conditions in 2013 did not favour grasshoppers. However, prolonged dry, warm weather during the growing season and into October allowed some grasshopper species to successfully develop and lay eggs.

In addition to the adult grasshopper counts, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) conducts a grasshopper egg survey in the fall to estimate embryo development in eggs for use in models to predict hatching dates the following spring. AAFC reported that it was not difficult to find grasshopper eggs this year compared to recent years' surveys, suggesting there is potential for an increase in grasshopper numbers in 2014.

The grasshopper survey is intended to consider annual species because they have a greater potential for rapid increase in populations. Grasshoppers that are winged adults before June, have coloured wings, or make audible sounds are considered "non-pest" species. Many of these species take two years to complete their life-cycles and tend not to increase to economically damaging numbers.

The survey and risk map are intended to provide general information on risk levels. The actual severity of grasshopper infestations in



The grasshopper risk map only provides general information on potential risk levels. Actual risk will depend on spring weather conditions.

Individual fields may differ from the 2014 forecast map and will depend primarily on weather conditions in the spring. Hot and dry conditions will favour growth and development of grasshoppers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Grasshopper-Forecast.

TAKE CARE TO INTERPRET PLOT RESULTS CORRECTLY



by Brent Flaten, PAg, CCA
Integrated Pest Management Specialist
Regional Services Branch

At this time of year, various agronomic trial results are being reported in the media. Interpreting these results correctly before applying them to one's operation is vital to producers' bottom lines.

When looking at trial results, it is important to find out if the trial treatments were replicated at the same site. Differences in yield or other measurements taken from various field treatments can either be a result of the product being tested or just natural variation within the plot, which can be caused by hills, low areas or differences in topsoil or subsoil. If this "within-plot" variation isn't accounted for, yield differences can wrongly be attributed to the treatments.

Having replicated strips allows you to compare the same treatments in different areas of the plot to determine what values are due to natural "within-plot" variation versus actual differences between treatments.

In statistical terms, this "within-plot" variation is called least significant difference, commonly shortened to LSD in research reports. Different values, for example yields, within that least significant difference range are not considered significant from each other due to variability within the test plots. Other research results may use numerical values followed by letters of the alphabet. Values followed by the same letter of the alphabet are not significantly different from each other.

Variations within the same replicated treatment can also be expressed as the coefficient of variance (CV). Generally a CV of less than 15 per cent is an indication that the conditions in the plot were quite uniform and significant differences between treatments are real.

Also remember that a single replicated research plot is limited in its value. Multiple site-years of data provide the best insight into how different treatments perform over different locations and climatic conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Contact a Regional Crop Specialist in your area.





Upcoming Workshops: Soils and Crops 2014



by Patrick Mooleki, PAg, PhD
Soil/Nutrient Management Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

The annual Soils and Crops Workshop will be held on March 11 and 12, 2014. The workshop will be in Hall A, Prairieland Park, Saskatoon: the same place as the 2013 workshop.

Presentations will take place on the first day featuring current research in the areas of soil and water, crop management, fertility, pest management and environment. In addition to the usual two concurrent sessions on Day 1, Department of Plant Sciences (U of S) students will be presenting their undergraduate thesis in a third concurrent session. A poster session featuring research results from Western Canada will also be held during Day 1. Time will be allocated to view the posters on Day 2 as well.

The second day of the workshop will provide producers with in-depth training on emerging crops. Attendees will learn more about the

potential, development, agronomy, marketing and status of emerging crops such as soybean, corn, fababean, carinata, camelina, prairie apples, haskap, vegetables and fibre crops.

For the first time in the history of Soils and Crops Workshop, there will be trade show booths. This will allow industry and other stakeholders the opportunity to showcase their products and services.

This event is a great opportunity for professional development, networking and extension of current soils and crops research for certified crop advisors, certified crop science consultants, articling and professional agrologists, researchers, students, producers and others in the agriculture industry.

FOR REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit the University of Saskatchewan website at www.usask.ca/soilsncrops.

MIDGE-TOLERANT WHEAT STEWARDSHIP – MAKING THE BENEFITS OF MIDGE TOLERANCE LAST



by Mitchell Japp, PAg, M.Sc.
Provincial Specialist, Cereal Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

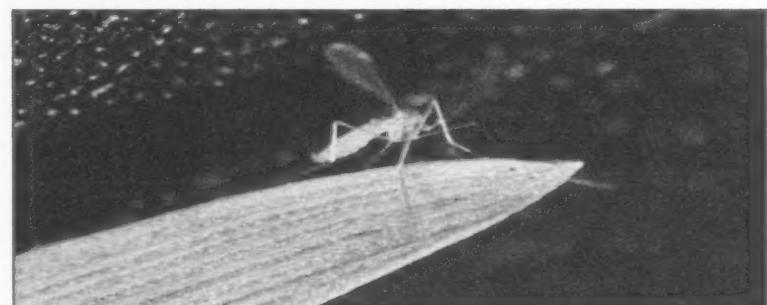
Wheat midge are a serious pest for producers. The insects are hard to spot, the damage they cause may not be realized until harvest and the economic impact can be severe. Wheat midge affect both grade and yield, causing damage to kernels or kernel abortion.

Fortunately, there is a midge-tolerant gene, called Sm1, bred into some wheat varieties. However, single-gene resistance, like the Sm1 midge-tolerant gene, can select for a resistant pest population. To prevent the build-up of resistant midge, varieties with the Sm1 gene have been commercialized as varietal blends (look for a "VB" in the Varieties of Grain Crops). Varietal blends are two similar varieties combined: 90 per cent is a wheat midge-tolerant variety and 10 per cent is a susceptible refuge variety.

Most wheat midge are susceptible to the Sm1 gene, but, in the absence of a susceptible refuge, the small number of naturally Sm1-resistant midge would survive to reproduce, selecting for Sm1 resistance. This could lead to a failure of the midge-tolerant Sm1 gene in as few as 10 years.

Using the refuge system, some susceptible midge will survive. Because the susceptible population is large and the resistant population is small, the selection pressure for Sm1-resistant midge is much smaller. Midge offspring with one susceptible parent and one resistant parent will remain susceptible to the Sm1 midge-tolerant gene. Using the refuge system may allow 90 years or more of midge tolerance.

All producers who plant an Sm1 midge-tolerant wheat variety have to sign a Midge Tolerant Wheat Stewardship Agreement. The agreement



Wheat growers should buy new certified seed at least every second year to ensure that the benefits of the Sm1 gene are available to producers for as long as possible.

allows only one year of farm-saved seed, ensuring that the refuge variety is maintained at 10 per cent. If the refuge variety was more than 10 per cent, producers' crops would not be sufficiently protected from midge; if it was less than 10 per cent, the Sm1 gene would be at risk.

Producers using midge-tolerant wheat need to buy certified seed every second year. Pedigreed seed of midge-tolerant wheat has specific tests to ensure that the refuge is maintained at the critical 10 per cent of the plant population. Using certified seed is the best method to ensure that the benefits of midge-tolerant wheat are available for a long time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/wheatmidge; or
- www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/wheatmidgeFAQ.





Choosing the right crop variety for your farm



by Lyndon Hicks, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Yorkton
Regional Services Branch

Over the last decade, a tremendous amount of research has led to the development of vastly improved crop varieties. With these new varieties come more choices. Choosing a variety requires looking at a number of considerations. Yield is the measure that individuals consider most, but there are a number of other characteristics that should be considered.

One very important variety characteristic is disease resistance. Weather patterns drastically change across the province and, as a result, so do field crop diseases. Being aware of local disease pressures will aid in the choice of a variety that has some level of disease resistance. A good example of this is in northeastern and east-central Saskatchewan, where there is the tendency to have higher levels of Fusarium Head Blight (FHB). With some research, choosing and sourcing a cereal variety that has some resistance to FHB can reduce reliance on fungicides.

Another extremely important characteristic is days to maturity. When growing a crop in an area with a shorter season, choosing an early



The SaskSeed Guide, 2014 is an excellent source of information on characteristics of different seed varieties.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your Regional Crops Specialist; or
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

maturing variety (fewer days to maturity) can be an advantage. Soybeans are a good example of a crop where this is more important than ever. If choosing to grow soybeans, awareness of local average corn heat units and days to maturity will assist in picking a variety that has the best potential to grow to full maturity while minimizing the risk of fall frost damage.

Characteristics such as lodging resistance and crop height should also be considered. Lodging resistance is most important for cereal crops grown in the higher-producing black soils of Saskatchewan or when extremely high yields are being targeted. Crop height tends to be more important for ease and efficiency of pulse crop harvesting, but can also be important if straw management is an issue.

Before purchasing seed for this upcoming crop year, growers may want to look at the new Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association's *SaskSeed Guide, 2014* to see what benefits are available from different varieties.

RIGHT RATES, FULL INPUTS, NEW VARIETIES SECRET TO MAXIMIZING PEA YIELDS: WCA DEMONSTRATION



by Shannon Chant, PAg, M.Sc.
Regional Crops Specialist, Swift Current
Regional Services Branch

Besides weather, there are numerous variables—such as variety, seeding rate, fertilizer, fungicide and herbicide—that can affect pea yields. In 2011 and 2012, Wheatland Conservation Area Inc. (WCA) hosted an Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) project demonstrating the role various inputs play in pea production.

Starting with a full set of inputs, WCA staff removed each input separately and compared the production results against a full-input plot. The full set of inputs consisted of phosphorus fertilizer (20 lb. per ac actual P), label-rate applications of granular inoculant, herbicide (Odyssey and Equinox) and fungicide (Headline Duo), and a seeding rate of three bushels per acre.

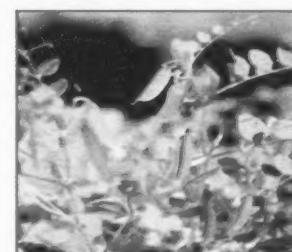
The treatments consisted of:

- New variety (Golden) with full inputs
- New variety with full inputs minus phosphorus
- New variety with full inputs minus inoculant
- New variety with full inputs minus herbicide
- New variety with full inputs minus fungicide
- New variety with full inputs but 80 per cent of the recommended seeding rate (2 bu. per ac.)
- Older variety (Admiral) with full inputs
- Older variety (Admiral) with no inputs

In both years, the highest yield came from the full inputs treatment, showing that the best way to produce peas is to use newer varieties, the recommended seeding rate and the recommended rates of phosphorus, inoculant, herbicide and fungicide.

In 2011, the largest reduction in yield (compared to the full inputs) was seen in the treatment that did not receive inoculant. In 2012, the largest reduction in yield (compared to the full inputs) was seen in the treatment with older genetics. This difference is likely due to the different weather conditions in each year.

In both 2011 and 2012, the second-greatest reduction in yield was seen in the treatment with older genetics, no fertilizer and no fungicide. The third-greatest reduction in yield was seen in the treatment with no phosphorus fertilizer.



Following the seeding and input rate recommendations and using new varieties are the key to maximizing pea yields.

More information on this and other WCA research and demonstration projects can be found at www.wheatlandconservation.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on varieties, inputs and fertilizer recommendations:

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca;
- Contact a Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or
- Talk to a local agrologist.





Watch out for red bartsia in hay



by Clark Brenzil, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Weed Control
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Red bartsia is an annual "hemi-parasitic" weed related to toadflax, snapdragon and mullein that reproduces only by seed. Red bartsia is called "hemi-parasitic" because it germinates and grows independently of its host early in its life-cycle and then it hijacks the roots of its perennial grass victims and uses them to support a rapid reproductive burst of growth of its own. This change often coincides with the first hay cut in fields it infests.

Small seedlings are very inconspicuous beneath the forage canopy. At maturity, red bartsia ranges between 10 to 40 cm (five to 16 inches) tall. Above-ground part of the plants take on a deep red or purple colour and are covered in dense hair. The narrow leaves of approximately three cm (1.35 inches) in length clasp the stem opposite one another. Flowers resembling tiny pink snapdragon flowers emerge from the crotches of upper leaves. Infested hayfields take on a deep purple hue following hay removal.

Red bartsia was first introduced to Canada in the 1950s. It is believed that it arrived in contaminated hay used as packing material in crates containing glider parts returning to Canadian military airbases from Germany. Red bartsia was found growing in those areas shortly afterward and spread quickly throughout the entire Manitoba Interlake region.

Red bartsia is not yet known to occur in Saskatchewan, but is spreading quickly out of the Manitoba Interlake region and can now be found in the Dauphin area as well as at isolated sites in southwestern Manitoba. It is also reported in several provinces and American states east of the Great Lakes.

Producers buying hay from other regions should ask hay sellers, regardless of their location, specifically about whether the hay they are purchasing contains weeds that they do not have yet. The list of Prohibited and Noxious Weeds in the *Minister's Order Designating Prohibited, Noxious and Nuisance Weeds* is a good reference list for this discussion.



As a seedling, red bartsia can be very inconspicuous beneath the forage canopy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca and look under "Legislation" in the left menu for the *Minister's Order Designating Prohibited, Noxious and Nuisance Weeds*, subordinate to *The Weed Control Act*; and
- Look under Crops/Crop Protection/Weeds for the factsheet *Preventing the Introduction of New Weeds*;
- Additional pictures of red bartsia can be found on Google Images by searching the key words red+bartsia.

WEBINAR LOOKS AT NON-BLOATING FORAGE LEGUMES



by Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg
Regional Forage Specialist, Outlook
Regional Services Branch

Successful forage establishment needs adequate planning and attention to detail. An early step in forage establishment is choosing forage species and cultivars that are adapted to site conditions and climate. It is also important to choose forages that meet the needs of your total forage system and the intended end use. Forage selection includes both grass and legume species. Some forages are better adapted for hay or silage and others are better suited for pasture and grazing.

Alfalfa is the most commonly used forage legume, but other available legumes should not be discounted as they might be a better fit



Sainfoin, cicer milkvetch and other non-bloating legumes will be discussed at a webinar on February 26.

depending on grazing management goals and soil conditions. One of the biggest concerns when including alfalfa in a perennial forage stand is the potential for bloat in livestock. Sainfoin and cicer milkvetch are non-bloating legume alternatives.

Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialists are hosting a Non-Bloating Legumes Webinar at 12 p.m. (Saskatchewan time) on February 26, 2014. Charlotte Ward, PAg and Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg will discuss the adaption of cicer milkvetch and sainfoin to various growing conditions and management systems. The discussion will include plant physiology, suitability for hay or pasture and management issues for each forage.

The webinar is scheduled over the lunch hour and is offered free of charge. The webinar format allows participants to view the presentation from any location, provided an Internet connection is available. Anyone interested in watching this webinar should pre-register at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/392858410>. Confirmation of registration will be emailed to each person. All registered participants will receive a link to the recorded webinar, which can be viewed after the original broadcast.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the webinar:

- Contact Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg, at 306-867-5559 or sarah.sommerfeld@gov.sk.ca or Charlotte Ward, PAg, at 306-786-1608 or charlotte.ward@gov.sk.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on forage species selection or non-bloating legumes:

- Contact a Regional Forage Specialist.





Spiritwood's Fast Genetics: Exporting market hogs around the world



by Angela Hall, B. Journ.
Media Relations Officer
Communications Branch

In the summer of 2013, a Boeing 747 filled with more than 800 head of purebred breeding pigs from Saskatchewan took flight for Chengdu, China.

The shipment is just one example of the international reach of Fast Genetics. The successful pig genetics business, however, is a homegrown success story rooted in Spiritwood, Sask.

Harold Fast returned to the Spiritwood area to build Fast Genetics in 1982 when he and wife Marjorie founded what was then called H&M Fast Farms as a family-owned business.

From the beginning, herd health was a major priority for the company. The focus on health was a natural fit for Harold, who focused on preventative medicine in private practice in Manitoba after graduating from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon.

He went on to lead the swine research program at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (previously called the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization) at the University of Saskatchewan, before returning to the Spiritwood farm his father had homesteaded in 1925.

Harold says he had always had an interest in farming and saw potential in pork production.

"I liked the production level. In fact when I was in high school my first choice was to be a farmer and my second choice was to be a vet. And I kind of did those in reverse," Harold says.

The Spiritwood location is an asset for Fast Genetics because the natural isolation from other big barns is an asset in maintaining herd health.

"The point was to have as high a health status as possible, followed by the genetic component, and we built from there," Harold says.

Today, Fast Genetics is a subsidiary of Manitoba-based HyLife, a Canadian national leader in pig production. Genetics from Fast Genetics are incorporated into sow herds and market hogs throughout Canada, the United States, China and, via a strategic alliance with a genetic leader in France, through most of Europe.

Harold advocates that businesses be open to strategic alliances, whether on a local or larger level, to stay sustainable and competitive.

"In modern agriculture, the levels of skills needed are just so high. You've got to surround yourself with people who are experts."

One of the biggest alliances for Fast Genetics was the decision to eventually amalgamate with what is known today as HyLife.

"They were, at the time, our largest customer, but they also brought in a level of expertise that certainly I did not have," Harold says. "That's just one example of how we [the company] have been open to strategic alliances."

The shipment to China earlier this year by Fast Genetics was made up of pigs that originated from Fast Genetics' nucleus sites near Spiritwood.

Incorporating young people into the company has been another key strategy.

Having young managers involved in the company allowed Fast Genetics to tap into the enthusiasm and imagination of youth, Harold says.

"Early on, it was a conscious decision to make sure we had young people in the company in leadership positions," he says.

The Fast family also helped keep a global perspective by hosting international exchange students since 1984. One of their former exchange students, Johan Clequin of France, returned to work at the Spiritwood company after completing his Agriculture degree.

Fast Genetics today has an employee base of about 70 people in the Spiritwood area.

Harold remains a shareholder in the company and is also an active member of the industry, currently serving as chair of Prairie Diagnostics Services.

He is also one of the speakers at the Agriculture Trade Summit taking place Feb. 4-5 in Saskatoon, where he will be sharing best practices with invited attendees.

The summit, announced in September by Premier Brad Wall, brings together producers, businesses, trade experts and industry and government officials as Saskatchewan looks to build on its exporting momentum and reputation as a producer of good quality, reliable agriculture products.

Harold says he sees room to grow the pork industry in Saskatchewan, where feed supplies and the wide open spaces remain an enviable advantage.





Canada-European Union trade agreement holds much potential for Saskatchewan producers



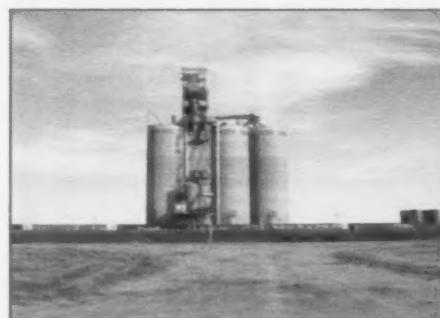
by Rob Swallow
Senior Trade Policy Analyst
Policy Branch

On October 18, 2013, Canada and the European Union (EU) announced they had reached an agreement-in-principle on the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Agriculture was a key interest for Saskatchewan in the CETA negotiations. In 2012, the EU was Saskatchewan's fifth largest agri-food export market, valued at more than \$627 million.

When CETA comes into force, almost 94 per cent of EU agriculture tariff lines will be duty free and, seven years later, that number will rise to more than 95 per cent. This duty-free access will give Saskatchewan goods preferential access to the EU market and a competitive advantage over competitors that do not have free-trade agreements with the EU.

Highlights from the agreement for agriculture include:

- Duty-free beef access of 50,000 tonnes annually (transition period to be determined);
- Immediate duty-free access for Canadian beef under the existing 14,950-tonne Hilton Quota;
- Immediate, duty-free pork access of 81,011 tonnes and bison access of 3,000 tonnes annually;



CETA could result in as much as \$1.5 billion in new Canadian agri-food exports to Europe.

- Seven-year tariff phase-out for: durum and high quality wheat, rye, barley, and oats;
- Immediate, duty-free access of 100,000 tonnes of low- and medium-quality wheat annually, and the removal after six years of the duty and quota; and
- Immediate elimination of tariffs on canola oil and processed pulses and grains.

The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance estimates, when fully implemented, the CETA could result in \$1.5 billion in new Canadian agri-food exports. This includes: \$600 million in beef, \$400 million in pork, \$50 million in bison, \$90 million in canola, \$20.5 million in wheat, \$1.9 million in other grains, and \$50 million in biofuels. As Canada's leading agri-food exporting province, Saskatchewan producers stand to benefit from these potential gains.

While an agreement-in-principle has been reached, negotiations are continuing to finalize the agreement in early 2014. Once finalized, the agreement will then go through a ratification process which can take around two years to complete.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Rob Swallow at 306-787-1207 or rjth.swallow@gov.sk.ca.

SASKATCHEWAN'S EXPORTS CONTINUE RECORD GROWTH IN 2013



by Darryl McCallum
International Business Development Specialist
Policy Branch

A review of Saskatchewan's agricultural exports for the first three-quarters of 2013 reveals that growth in exports continues on a record-setting pace. The total value of these exports for the first nine months of 2013 was almost \$8.4 billion, with the largest quarter for exports yet to come. This amount exceeds the yearly totals in any year prior to 2007.

On a year-to-year basis, the value of agri-food exports this year is up almost 5.6 per cent over the same period last year. This increase comes despite generally decreasing commodity prices over the year. The volume of our exports has increased to compensate for those lower prices, with significant increases in the volume of our pulse and wheat exports.

Saskatchewan's pulse crop rebounded from a flat year in 2012, with exports to India—our leading pulse export market—returning to their historic levels. At the same time, pulse exports to China and Bangladesh increased significantly. Exports to these three countries have been largely responsible for increased pulse exports (peas and lentils, specifically) by nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars.

The value of our durum wheat exports has risen by more than \$160 million thus far in 2013, while the value of non-durum

wheat exports remained steady at nearly \$1.5 billion.

Canola exports (seed, oil, meal) have experienced lower returns thus far in 2013, although this comes after record-breaking years in 2011 and 2012.



In the first nine months of 2013, Saskatchewan exported almost \$8.4 billion in agri-food products.

In our largest market, the United States, widespread drought resulted in a reduction of the U.S. cow herd and contributed to surges in crop prices in both 2011 and 2012. With the easing of drought conditions in 2013 (and, consequently, the availability of more affordable feed grains), many producers started re-building their cattle herds with supplies from Canada.

Out of Saskatchewan's top 15 agri-foods export markets, all but two countries imported more Saskatchewan food exports in the first three-quarters of 2013. If this holds for the last quarter of the year, Saskatchewan could experience another record year for agri-food exports. As agricultural exports make up approximately one-third of the province's total exports, this is good economic news for the entire province.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Refer to the State of Trade report on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

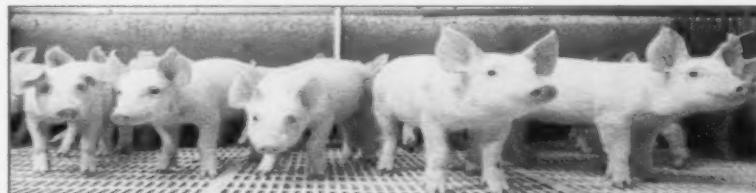




Optimism obvious at Saskatchewan Pork Industry Symposium



by Brad Marcenik, PAg, M.Sc, BSA
Livestock Economist
Livestock Branch



2013 has been a turn-around year for hog producers in Saskatchewan and all of North America.

The 36th Saskatchewan Pork Industry Symposium was held in November and it was obvious from the event that there is renewed optimism in the Saskatchewan hog industry after several years of financial losses. Country of Origin Labeling has also adversely affected live hog trade to the U.S., forcing the Canadian hog industry to be more independent.

2013 has been a turn-around year for producers, with near-record market hog prices through the summer and bumper feed grain crops in North America this fall. Feed costs per market hog sold have declined by about \$30 per head since the spring of 2013.

The Saskatchewan Pork Symposium continued to have great support from the industry, with a diverse lineup of presentations. As farmers and food producers, we don't often tell our story, which was the basis of the opening presentation by Crystal Mackay of Farm and Food Care Ontario. The public has questions about the food they eat and we must respond in a positive manner by any means available through social media, farm tours, presentations, classroom visits, etc. Be positive and show you care.

Harvey Wagner presented on the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) that has rapidly spread in the United States. While this virus causes diarrhea and vomiting in all ages of pigs, nursery pigs tend to be affected the most, suffering up to 100 per cent mortality. The highly contagious virus is mainly transmitted through feces, and immunity is not life-long since the virus can mutate. The transport of pigs to markets is a critical link in transmitting the disease to uncontaminated farms.

Dr. Sandra Edwards, of Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, spoke on "Group Housing of Sows: Getting it Right". Hog producers in the U.K. phased out gestation stalls 10 years ago. Dr. Edwards thinks managing the feeding of sows is key to getting group sow housing right. Electronic feeding systems were identified as likely the best system. The Canadian Code of Practice for Pigs is being updated, and group sow housing is an area under consideration; however, the capital cost of converting existing sow barns and the change in managing the sows could be a challenge for producers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Brad Marcenik, Livestock Economist, Livestock Branch, at 306-933-5098 or brad.marcenik@gov.sk.ca.

KEEPING CANADA FREE OF PORCINE EPIDEMIC DIARRHEA



by Julie-Anne Howe, M.Sc.
Animal Health Programs Officer
Livestock Branch

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) is a disease of pigs that is similar to Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) that has recently been identified in the United States. PED causes severe diarrhea and vomiting in pigs of all ages, with high mortality (up to 100 per cent) in suckling pigs.

Long present in both Europe and Asia, PED first appeared in the U.S. in May 2013. This is the first time the disease has been identified in North America. PED has been found as far north as Minnesota and South Dakota. Currently, it is not known what brought PED into the U.S. The Canadian swine herd has no immunity to this disease, meaning that if PED enters Canada, the damage to the swine industry would be devastating.

PREVENTION

A solid biosecurity program is vital to keeping the Canadian swine herd safe from PED. Make sure you control who or what is entering your farm and that you know where they have been before coming to you. There is widespread movement of pigs, feed and trucks throughout North America, making it easy to spread PED and other diseases over long distances. Now is the time to ensure tight biosecurity measures are in place for your farm.

A recent study conducted by the U.S. National Pork Board assessed the risk posed by pig-collection points like packing plants in promoting an initial outbreak of PED virus (PEDV). Researchers estimated the rate of contamination of trailers with PEDV during the unloading process. They collected samples pre- and post-delivery from 669 livestock trailers at seven packing plants.



Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea can cause up to 100 per cent mortality in suckling pigs.

Specifically, the study found that:

- 17 per cent of trailers were contaminated with PEDV before unloading the pigs.
- 11 per cent of trailers that were not contaminated with PEDV on arrival became contaminated during unloading.

Ensure all trucks and equipment entering your facilities are properly cleaned to prevent pathogens coming in with manure. Report any unusual signs of disease to your veterinarian.

PED is a clear threat to the Canadian swine industry; we need to keep vigilant with our biosecurity protocols throughout the industry, especially at key entry sites into the country and at individual operations.

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION

- Visit the Canadian Swine Health Board website at www.swinehealth.ca/PED-Alert.php.



Johnne's disease screening and control available for beef cattle



by Wendy Wilkins, DVM, PhD
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian
Animal Health Unit, Livestock Branch

Johnne's disease is a production-limiting disease in beef and dairy cattle. While it appears that Johnne's disease is less common in beef cattle than in dairy cattle, when it does strike a beef cattle herd, the results can be devastating. The disease spreads from herd to herd with the movement of cattle that are infected but show no signs.

The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association is working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to deliver a Johnne's disease program for beef cattle funded under the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 agreement. Funding is available to cover the cost of testing blood samples from cows on up to 50 farms per year, assuming an approximate herd size of 80 cows. These samples will be tested for antibodies to *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis*, the bacteria that cause Johnne's disease.

The producer is encouraged to have the veterinarian return to the farm to discuss the test results, once they are known. By using the test results to put the herd situation in perspective, the vet and owner can go through a farm-specific Risk Assessment and Management Plan questionnaire together. This will help the owner identify management changes that can help minimize the risk of introducing or spreading Johnne's disease.

The cost of the initial veterinary visit to collect blood samples and the cost of testing are paid for by the program. Participating producers who choose to have the herd veterinarian out for a second visit to discuss test results will be eligible for reimbursement of up to \$200.

Because the spread of this disease is strongly associated with cattle movement (trades, leases, sales and purchases), this program is targeted towards purebred (seedstock) herd owners. Only these herds are eligible for this program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association at 306-757-8523 or visit www.skstockgrowers.com.



Eligibility
Any purebred cattle producer located in Saskatchewan who is interested in participating is eligible to apply.

Program
A blood test is conducted on every mature cow and bull in the herd. If Johnne's is found in a herd, veterinary consultations will be provided and if necessary, a Johnne's disease management and development a customized management plan. The identity of program participants and individual test results will be kept confidential.

Costs Covered
Mandatory fees for blood collection, laboratory testing, sample shipping and veterinary fees for Johnne's Risk Assessment and Management Plan are covered.

How can I access this program?
All purebred Saskatchewan cattle producers are eligible for this program. Enrollment is limited to a maximum of 50 herds per year. Because enrollment is a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact:
Chris Pearson
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
306-757-8523
csa@skstockgrowers.com



Johnne's disease is less common in beef cattle than in dairy cattle, but the results of an outbreak are no less devastating.

PRE-CALVING NUTRITION CRUCIAL TO PRODUCING HEALTHY CALVES



by Dwayne Summack, PAg, M.Sc.
Regional Livestock Specialist, Kindersley
Regional Services Branch

Pre-calving nutrition that a beef cow receives can have far-reaching effects on productivity. Inadequate pre-calving nutrition can reduce calf vigour, health, survival and growth performance. Pre-calving nutrition may also affect the postpartum interval and conception rates. Achieving the goal of one calf per cow per year is highly dependent on your attention to energy, protein, mineral and vitamin nutrition, beginning with the last trimester of pregnancy through to the end of the breeding season.

Late gestation is a crucial time in the cow's yearly production cycle for a number of reasons. Fetal growth follows an exponential curve, which means the majority of growth takes place in late pregnancy. Approximately 70 per cent of pregnancy growth products (fetus, uterine and placental tissues) occur in the final six weeks. The cow's energy, protein, mineral and vitamin requirements are increasing at the same time rumen capacity is decreasing due to displacement caused by the growth of the uterus and fetus. These increased nutrient demands may also coincide with the coldest and windiest time of year. We know that nutrient demands are greatest following calving, so the likelihood of improving the cow's body condition score after calving is very low.

Provide cows with good-quality forage (cut early, with little weathering) for six weeks pre-calving, and minimize or eliminate straw from the diet. Introducing an energy concentrate, such as cereal grain, to the ration prior to calving will help cows adapt to higher-



Inadequate pre-calving nutrition can reduce calf vigour, health, survival and growth performance, and also the mother's postpartum interval and conception rate, so it is important to ensure pregnant cows get enough nutrition from the last trimester of pregnancy to the end of the breeding season.

concentrate feeding levels necessary to maintain their body condition, as well as produce milk and return to estrous after calving.

Cows in poor condition and first-calf heifers are the most susceptible to nutrition-related complications. Their body condition needs to be improved prior to calving if it is below 2.5 out of 5. This may require segregating these animals from the main herd to reduce feed competition and allow them to access high-quality forages, a supplemental energy source, minerals and vitamins.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your Regional Livestock Specialist or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.





Understanding the genes and environmental factors that control flowering time and length in chickpeas

Chickpeas are the third most important grain legume in the world and are grown widely in arid and semi-arid environments. It is no surprise, then, that chickpeas have become a major crop on the Prairies, where they are used as part of a crop rotation, especially in no-tillage systems.

Chickpea yield world-wide is relatively low, with a global average of less than 0.8 tonne per hectare, due primarily to its extensive cultivation under arid conditions and its sensitivity to temperature and photoperiod (day length). To achieve optimal yield, the chickpea's growing period must closely match the region's growing season. This is especially important in short-season temperate climates like Saskatchewan. The environmental conditions prevalent at flowering and the length of the reproductive phase (from flowering to first frost) determine yield.

Early flowering is one of the main objectives of the University of Saskatchewan's chickpea breeding program, but the researchers at the Crop Development Centre soon discovered that very little was known about the initiation of flowering in chickpeas and the relation to photoperiod and daytime temperatures.

With the support of Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund, a team of researchers set out to:

- 1) Assess the effect of heat and day length on flowering of various common varieties of chickpea;
- 2) Determine if there was a stage of chickpea development that is particularly sensitive to photoperiod; and
- 3) Map the genes associated with early flowering, photoperiod insensitivity and ascochyta blight resistance, which seem to be associated somehow.

In 2010 and 2011, 100 chickpea genotypes from the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (which operates in Africa and the Middle East), the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (which operates in Asia) and the Crop Development Centre were grown under controlled conditions. They were grown under long-day (16 hours of light) and short-day (10 hours of light) conditions and under daytime and nighttime temperatures of 22°C and 16°C, respectively. The length of time from emergence to first-flower was recorded as well as the node on which the flower appeared. A genotype was considered early flowering if it flowered in less than 25 days, intermediate if it flowered within 26 and 34 days, and late if it took longer than 35 days to flower. Significant differences were observed among the genotypes under

both long-day and short-day conditions. The research group also identified two lines which do not rely upon photoperiod for the induction of flowering.

Then, eight genotypes representing the early, intermediate and late varieties were selected and were grown in replicated trials in a long-day or short-day growth chamber. After each growth phase, a portion of the plants in each chamber was exchanged and their subsequent growth was compared to the unmoved plants. The researchers discovered that, in the majority of the varieties tested, sensitivity to photoperiod only exists in certain developmental phases. They concluded that the phenology of chickpea genotypes from emergence to first flowering can be divided into three phases: (1) a photoperiod-insensitive juvenile phase; (2) a photoperiod-sensitive inductive phase; and (3) a photoperiod-insensitive post-flowering inductive phase.

Finally, the researchers crossed an early-maturing, day-neutral, blight-susceptible desi chickpea with a late-maturing, day-sensitive, blight-resistant kabuli chickpea to produce 92 recombinant inbred lines (RILs) containing the entire spectrum of chickpea genes. The RILs were grown in a greenhouse and in the field, and their responses to *Ascochyta rabiei* were noted. The RILs were then analyzed in the laboratory and a chickpea genetic map was created containing 916 markers for various agronomic traits.

As a result of this initial research, crop breeders now have a better understanding of the genes and environmental factors that control flowering time and length in chickpeas, and their relationship with ascochyta blight resistance. The information collected is being used to breed chickpea varieties ideally suited to the western Canadian climate.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

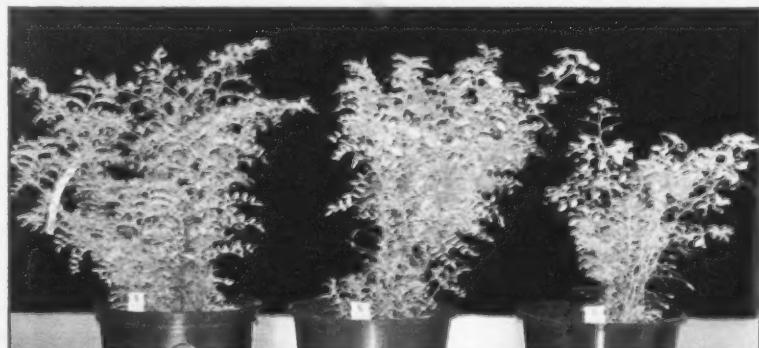
In 2013, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada committed \$9.9 million in new funding for 61 ADF research projects through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture research reports page at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADF/Search and enter the report number #20090330 into the search function.



Example of the response of two chickpea varieties (Kabuli type on the left and Desi type on the right) under short-day and different temperature regimes.





Sheep producer optimistic about the future



Sherri Dobbs, PAg
Provincial Livestock
Development Specialist
Livestock Branch

Pat Smith, the owner of Sarto Sheep Farm, an intensive sheep operation in eastern Manitoba, shared his expertise and optimism for the industry at the recent Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board annual symposium and meeting in Regina.

Mr. Smith began raising sheep in 1974 and started with 80 ewes. His motto is "Our Ewes Grow Your Profit". He now has 3,300 ewes on an accelerated breeding program targeting three lambings every two years and a feeder operation.

His operation intensively lamb every two to three weeks, using ewe groups of 180 head. He runs six rams with each ewe group and keeps the same ram group together throughout their lifetime and with the ewes between breeding. He maintains a closed flock, and sells breeding stock and finished lambs.

Mr. Smith stated that carefully selected rams are the most important part of the operation to improve the genetics of his flock. He uses radio-frequency identification ear tags from Shearwell and the corresponding Farmworks software, along with some additional spreadsheets to analyze the performance of individual animals and



Sarto Sheep Farms has an aggressive expansion plan and is looking for Saskatchewan producers who want to become large multiplier operations using his genetics.

the flock. He is able to track animal health vaccinations/treatments and animals' weights at various stages of production, follow genetic lineage and set performance targets for his flock. He uses these records to choose breeding stock and to heavily cull breeding stock based on poor performance such as low lambing rates and weaning weights.

Mr. Smith has success with out-of-season lambing by choosing replacement stock that was born out of season themselves. The operation is managed for ewes to lamb every eight months, with ewes' lambs being bred at nine months of age. He selects his replacement ewes for prolificacy, low lamb mortality and out-of-season breeding success.

Mr. Smith is very optimistic about the opportunities in the Canadian sheep industry. He has an aggressive expansion plan for the next four years, and plans to expand to 6,000 ewes at his farm with an additional 45,000 ewes on multiplier farms supported by a 50,000-head feedlot. He is interested in finding producers in Saskatchewan who want to work with him to become large intensive ewe/lamb multiplier operations using his genetics and expertise.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Sherri Dobbs, Provincial Livestock Development Specialist, at 306-787-4657, or sherri.dobbs@gov.sk.ca, or
- Visit Sarto Sheep Farm's website at www.sartosheep.com.

CROP OPPORTUNITY AND SCOTT RESEARCH UPDATE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 6



by Sherrilyn Phelps, PAg, M.Sc, CCA
Regional Crops Specialist, North Battleford
Regional Services Branch

The Western Applied Research Corporation (WARC) has joined with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and SaskCanola to stage the annual Crop Opportunity and Scott Research Update on March 6, 2014. This event will provide opportunities for agrologists, certified crop advisors, industry representatives, producers and researchers to discuss the latest information and technology pertaining to crop production and farm management.

The latest research and demonstration results from WARC will be showcased. The potential of alternative crops—such as new hybrid fall rye varieties—as well as corn and soybean varieties will be discussed. Laryssa Grenkow, new research manager with WARC, will cover projects related to canola establishment, such as toxicity of seed-placed phosphorous and sulfur, precision seeding tools, seeding speed, seed size, plant populations and economics of reseeding. Eric Johnson, weed biologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at Scott, will provide an overview of weed control in Australia and what we can learn from "the Land Down Under", as well as some information on new chemistries for weed control in the Prairies.

There will also be information on the latest insect and disease pressures and what to watch for in 2014. On the farm management side, topics for the day include understanding contracts and how to manage risks, global market outlook and changes to the Farm Business Development Initiative program.

Dr. Ross McKenzie, a research scientist formerly with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's Lethbridge Research Centre, will share his lifetime of soil fertility expertise with participants. He is well known for his long-term rotation and overall fertility research with pulses, cereals and oilseeds. He will speak on soil fertility, with particular emphasis on managing soil and fertility programs following a year with high-yielding crops. Understanding the options available, the timing of applications, forms of fertilizer and new products will be crucial to optimizing fertility programs in 2014. He will discuss fertilizers for high-yielding canola as well as for high-protein wheat and malting barley. This is a great opportunity to get all of your fertility questions answered.

This all-day event will begin with registration at 8 a.m. at the Dekker Centre in North Battleford. Talks will begin at 9 a.m. and wrap up around 4:30 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to register:

- Contact Ashton Keller at ashton.keller@warc.ca or 306-247-2001.





Volunteer reporters needed for Saskatchewan Agriculture's Crop Report



by **Shannon Friesen, PAg**
Regional Crops Specialist, Weyburn
Regional Services Branch

Volunteer crop reporters are needed to collect data for the Crop Reports issued by Saskatchewan Agriculture during the growing season. The Crop Report is a weekly survey that includes questions regarding rainfall, weather and field conditions, seeding progress, hay yields, harvest progress and many other topics that are important to agriculture and commodity traders. Volunteer crop reporters are actively involved in gathering this important and relevant information about the local agricultural community.

Crop reporters record information on a weekly basis and either phone, fax, email or web-submit reports to the Agriculture Knowledge Centre. The data is then compiled and released to the public on Thursday mornings. There are currently approximately 230 volunteers reporting from across the province, many of whom have been crop reporters for 20, 30, 35 or even 40 years. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture truly appreciates the time and commitment these volunteers contribute to the Crop Report.

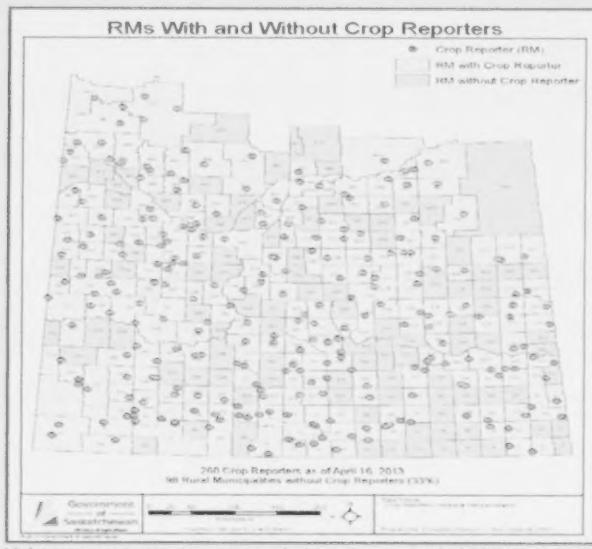
The Crop Report is Saskatchewan Agriculture's most popular publication. It is a crucial tool used by many organizations and people in the agricultural industry to plan and evaluate each crop year. The Crop Report is a highly valued and respected indicator of crop progress from seeding to harvest. The report also helps the general public to understand the challenges facing producers and promotes the importance of the agricultural industry to the province's economy.

The map shows the rural municipalities (RMs) that are in need of a crop reporter. Volunteers are needed in approximately 100 RMs;

however, producers are encouraged to join the Crop Reporting Service even if their RM currently has a crop reporter. There are several RMs that have multiple reporters, and more data is better data.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



Volunteer crop reporters are needed in approximately 100 RMs.

ARE YOU THINKING AG?



by **Krystal Aulie, B.Comm**
Provincial Business Management Specialist, HR and Youth
Regional Services Branch

"Think opportunity. Think careers. Think agriculture." That's the message that the Ministry of Agriculture is communicating to young people across the province with the 'ThinkAG' campaign.

The campaign was officially launched in October 2013, during Agriculture Month in Saskatchewan, with the release of an opportunity catalogue. The catalogue features six young people with interesting careers in the industry. Through personal stories, the catalogue presented relevant occupational information, such as educational requirements and salary expectations. The catalogue was sent to every high school in the province, with the hope that it will wind up in the hands of guidance counselors and teachers en route to high school students and their parents.

ThinkAG took to the streets at Canadian Western Agribition this past fall. In addition to a presence in the traditional trade show, the

Ministry of Agriculture had a Street Team who focused their efforts on seeking out students nearing high school graduation and talking to them about the endless career opportunities available in agriculture. With more than 50,000 Saskatchewan people employed in agriculture and agri-food, in jobs all the way from the farm gate to the food plate, the diversity of opportunities know no bounds.

The ThinkAG campaign will grow in momentum throughout the year and is reinforced and supported through the Ministry's scholarship program. Grade 12 students and recent graduates who are pursuing post-secondary education in an agriculture-related field are encouraged to submit their stories to be eligible to receive up to \$4,000 to help finance their studies.

If you are interested in learning more about what the Ministry is doing to get young people to ThinkAG or if you would like to have the ThinkAG team attend one of your events, please contact ThinkAG.gov.sk.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Krystal Aulie, Provincial Business Management Specialist, HR and Youth, at 306-798-0947 or krystal.aulie@gov.sk.ca.





AgriStability has changed. Check your coverage to ensure it meets your needs.

Risk management is an important part of a farming operation. This time of year is a good time for producers to look at their risk management programming and options to determine the best fit for their operations.

The AgriStability Program has changed. In 2013, a number of adjustments were made changing AgriStability from an income stabilization program to a disaster assistance program. As producers analyze the coverage and support they have through various programs, we recommend they review the protection they have through AgriStability to determine if it meets their needs. AgriStability is one component in the suite of risk management programs available. When combined with Crop Insurance (AgriInsurance) and AgriInvest, this group of programs can help producers manage their risks.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) can help assess the protection AgriStability provides to each farming operation. Contact any of the 21 SCIC customer service offices across the province to arrange for a program advisor to meet with you. The program advisor has a wealth of knowledge and experience to assess your situation and review the risk protection you have through the AgriStability program.

Those producers who are new to AgriStability or are signing up again after being out of the program for more than one year must request a new participant package or enrolment notice by April 30, 2014, to be eligible for the 2014 program year. The same April 30 deadline applies to producers who want to end their participation in AgriStability. Producers who want to end their involvement with AgriStability must contact SCIC by April 30, 2014, and indicate their intention to exit the program. Producers who miss this deadline are considered enrolled and will be required to pay the program fee for the year. You do not need to participate in the AgriStability program every year. Producers can opt in or out of the program on a yearly basis. Producers who rejoin the program are required to provide the historical information for the years in which they did not participate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the requirements for entering or exiting the program, or to discuss the risk protection available through the AgriStability Program:

- Contact a local SCIC customer service office or the AgriStability call centre at 1-866-270-8450.

UP TO 100-PER-CENT COVERAGE UNDER THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program is administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) on behalf of the federal and provincial governments. It is available to all producers in the province. The program offers up to 100 per cent compensation for wildlife damage to crops and death or injury to livestock caused by wildlife, as well as compensation for prevention practices. As the province's livestock producers head into calving and winter-feeding, they should be aware of some of the program's details that pertain to their operations.

COMPENSATION FOR ALTERNATIVE FEED SYSTEMS AND STACKED HAY
Swath, bale and corn grazing used as part of a well-managed feeding system is eligible for wildlife damage compensation. Producers following proper management requirements on their alternative feed systems who experience damage from wildlife are advised to contact SCIC as soon as damage is detected. SCIC will determine the actual yield from the undamaged area of the field. Damage should be reported anytime throughout the growing season and prior to livestock going on feed. Producers are expected to monitor wildlife numbers so an accurate assessment of the quantity consumed can be calculated.

In situations where wildlife are feeding on and damaging a producer's stacked hay, compensation is available if all reasonable prevention measures have been taken. Hay must be in stacks in order to be eligible. Compensation is not retroactive; therefore, it is important to notify SCIC as soon as damage is detected.

PREDATION COMPENSATION

Livestock producers can receive compensation for the injury or death of eligible livestock, fowl or specialty animals by predators. Compensation is paid at 100 per cent for death and up to 80 per cent to cover the veterinary costs of injured animals. If predation is suspected but cannot be confirmed, 50 per cent compensation

is provided. In cases where there is no evidence of a predator attack, no payment is issued. All domesticated livestock are eligible for compensation. Wild boars are excluded.

SCIC wants to work with producers to ensure their claims are handled as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Before claims are paid, inspections are required.

PREVENTION COMPENSATION

Prevention programs are in place to help with predation issues. Producers are expected to use prevention programs and a predation specialist, if recommended. The predation specialist will assist the producer in removing problem predators. SCIC will provide \$100 to help producers offset the cost of purchasing a livestock guardian dog. Receipt of purchase and breeder information is required to be eligible for compensation.

Prevention measures are available for those producers who lose their feed to foraging wildlife. Compensation is available for intercept feeding to deflect animals from producers' main bale yards.

Compensation for predation and alternative feed systems are just two aspects of the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. This program also provides compensation for crop losses due to wildlife.

FOR MORE INFORMATION regarding the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program:

- Contact SCIC at 1-888-935-0000;
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com; or
- Stop by a Crop Insurance office.





DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
February 1 - 2, 2014	Breeding for Profit	Saskatoon, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 3, 2014	Regional Pulse Workshop	North Battleford, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 3 - 5, 2014	Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association convention	Ottawa, ON		www.wheatgrowers.ca
February 5, 2014	SIAST Palliser Career Fair	Moose Jaw, SK	1-888-935-0000	customerservice@scic.gov.sk.ca
February 6, 2014	SIAST Wascana Career Fair	Regina, SK	1-888-935-0000	customerservice@scic.gov.sk.ca
February 10 - 11, 2014	Western Canadian Holistic Resource Management Conference	Lloydminster, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 11 - 13, 2014	Cattlemen's Corral and Crop Visions	Lloydminster, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 13, 2014	Bull Selection Workshop	Saskatoon, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 12 - 14, 2014	Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) and Barley Council of Canada joint convention	Deerfoot Inn, Calgary, AB	1-403-912-3998	www.wbga.org
February 24 - 25, 2014	Wild Oats Grainworld 2014	Winnipeg, MB	1-800-567-5671	www.wildoatsgrainworld.com

Last Chance to Apply for the Agriculture Student Scholarship

by Krystal Aulie, B.Comm
*Provincial Business Management Specialist, HR and Youth
 Regional Services Branch*

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture offers the Agriculture Student Scholarship, which awards one winning scholarship valued at \$4,000 and three runner-up scholarships valued at \$2,000 to students willing to speak up and tell the story of Saskatchewan's thriving agriculture industry.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, you must be a Saskatchewan Grade 12 student or recent high school graduate who is planning to pursue an agriculture-related post-secondary education. Applicants are required to produce a three-minute creative video or write a well-researched 1,000-word story that showcases agriculture in one of the following themes: solutions for a growing world, stewardship towards tomorrow, safe food that is responsibly produced and future forward agriculture industry.

Applicants will also be required to submit a letter of reference from a teacher, agriculture industry member or community leader and proof of enrollment in an agriculture-related post-secondary program. Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2014. Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website for more information on how to apply. Winning submissions will be featured on the Ministry's website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Krystal Aulie, Provincial Business Management Specialist, at 306-798-0947 or krystal.aulie@gov.sk.ca.
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/scholarship.

